



A Message From Your City Government

The events of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, have changed our nation. Every precaution is being taken by the City of Long Beach to secure and protect our residents, businesses and visitors. Our public safety team, composed of Long Beach police, fire, airport, harbor, health, public works, planning and building, and disaster management personnel, has participated in specialized training during the last several years and is prepared to ensure the security of our city.

In the early morning hours of that fateful day, our public safety team responded immediately and City Hall remained open to respond to our residents' needs. Our professionals have undergone considerable training to keep our city safe.

Emergency Response Preparedness

The Long Beach Disaster Committee, coordinated by the Long Beach Fire Department, has been meeting monthly for more than five years to discuss emergency planning, identify current issues and conduct training sessions. There are more than 120 committee members representing City of Long Beach departments, local hospitals, the Long Beach Unified School District, the American Red Cross, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Emergency preparedness is ongoing in the City of Long Beach. Plans are maintained and tailored to the specific functions and needs of each Department, and are employed during training sessions and tested in simulated exercises.

The City also works with the County of Los Angeles, which is responsible for coordinating emergency activities within the geographic area. Long Beach participates in the county's annual Operational Area Exercise which incorporates SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System). SEMS is designed to improve the coordination of emergency response and expedite recovery efforts through standardization of all agencies within the

county and state. This year's exercise, to be held in November, will focus on bioterrorism.

Terrorism Response Preparedness

In addition to the emergency preparedness training described above, the City of Long Beach was selected as one of 120 cities to receive federal funds to prepare for an act of terrorism. In January 1999, the City hosted a train-the-trainer program at California State University, Long Beach with more than 200 representatives from area-wide law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency medical services, hospitals and schools attending the program. Since that time, Long Beach has embarked on an aggressive program to unite the numerous disciplines in preparing for the possibility of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event.

Over the past two years, with the strong support of City Manager Henry Taboada, Police Chief Jerome Lance, Fire Chief Skip Beck, and Health and Human Services Department Director Ronald Arias, the City began training personnel, creating response plans and purchasing equipment to support emergency responders and possible victims, should a WMD event occur in Southern California.

Representatives from several City departments, local area hospitals, the American Red Cross and the federal Department of Health and Human Services, meet regularly on this topic. The equipment obtained from the federal government stands ready to support Long Beach and the Southern California area.

Since the initial training in January 1999, the City has conducted two table-top exercises and one full-scale exercise with the County of Los Angeles, the State of California, and several departments of the federal government.

City Departments Prepared

The Police Department will continue to work with other City departments as well as local, state and fed-

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eral law enforcement agencies. This includes increased presence at our Airport, Port and other critical sites within our city.

In addition to taking the lead on disaster preparedness and response as described on Page 1, the Fire Department will continue to respond to calls for service, and to work closely with the Police Department and other outside agencies to ensure that our City is as prepared as possible, should an event occur in our area.

Our financial management team continues to work with banking and financing partners to keep the City's investment portfolio safe and secure.

Our communications team has worked with KLON-FM (88.1) radio and Charter Communications (Long Beach cable television provider) to expand our ability to communicate with our residents and businesses.

All of our City departments are working together to provide services to our community while continuing to prepare for any emergency situation.

We know that the next months and years will require us to be flexible and strong. It will require us to be alert, yet unafraid. We have been changed and will respond to that change. We ask that you join us as we work together to ensure a safe and successful future for our city.

Help Yourself Be Prepared

The **City Emergency Info Line (562) 570-5252** will feature recorded Long Beach-related information, and will be updated periodically during a major emergency as new information becomes available.

(800) 550-5234 is the new toll-free "Safety Information and Referral Line" provided by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Individuals with hearing impairments can obtain information via the toll-free TTY

line: (800) 550-5281.

The "one-stop" information line will allow callers to choose from a menu that will give advice on personal and family preparedness, what to do in the event of a possible or real exposure to anthrax, and tips on what to do with suspicious mail or packages. There is also the option of talking to a trained technician, between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., who can answer questions and refer callers to various agencies, departments and internet websites for further information.

Safety information is also available on the OES website at www.oes.ca.gov (click on "terrorism").

Another source of information is the website of the The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.bt.cdc.gov.

What You Can Do

In case of a natural or man-made emergency, it may take some time before all residents can be helped. Here are some steps that you can take:

–Participate in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Call the CERT Hotline at (562) 570-2525 for more information.

–Take a course in first aid.

–Purchase a battery-operated radio.

–Purchase several large flashlights.

–Keep fresh batteries available.

–Know the phone number of your child's school so you can call the school directly in case of emergency.

–Know your company's emergency guidelines.

–Discuss emergency plans with family members.

–Get to know your neighbors and join community organizations.

SAVE THIS: How we will communicate with you

In order to better communicate during a life-threatening emergency, the City has improved our communication resources.

CITY EMERGENCY INFO LINE (562) 570-5252 will feature recorded Long Beach-related information, and will be updated periodically during a major emergency as new information becomes available.

CITY'S WEBSITE (www.ci.long-beach.ca.us) will provide emergency information as soon as it is gathered and verified.

HTTV (Home Town Television-Channel 21 on Charter Communications Cable Network) will be one source of information dur-

ing a major emergency, carrying live local press conferences and updated information.

KLON RADIO 88.1 FM will provide Long Beach-related information as it becomes available and verified. **Remember to have a battery-operated radio available at all times in case there is no electricity.**

KFWB-AM 980, KNX-AM 1070, and KFI-AM 640 will provide areawide information.

CHARTER TELEVISION, which provides cable network service to Long Beach, will post Long Beach-related information across the bottom of the screen on six of its channels. Scan the channels until you find one with City information.